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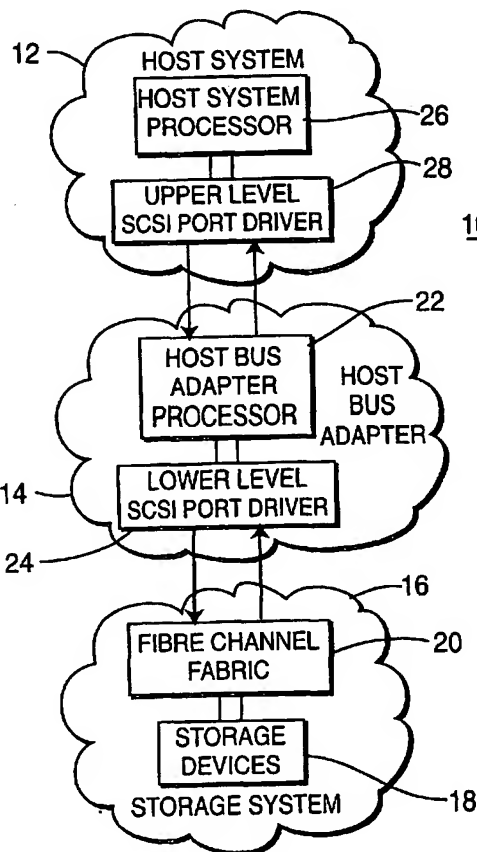
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **GRASS VALLEY (US) Inc.** [US/US]; 400 Providence Mine Road, Nevada City, CA 95959 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **MCDONNELL, Niall, Seamus** [IE/US]; 11710 NW Jericho Road, Portland, OR 97009 (US). **CROWTHER, David, Aaron**

- [US/US]; 4817 SE Stewart Court, Hillsboro, CA 97123 (US). **BAME, Daniel, Edwin** [US/US]; 17485 SW Viking St., Beaverton, OR 97007 (US). **WOOD, Robert, Raymond** [US/US]; 37420 SW Laurelwood Road, Gaston, OR 97119 (US).
- (74) Agents: **TRIPOLI, Joseph, S.** et al.; Thomson Licensing, Inc., Two Independence Way, Princeton, NJ 08540 (US).
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(54) Title: REAL-TIME FAIL-OVER RECOVERY FOR A MEDIA AREA NETWORK



(57) **Abstract:** A media area network (10) includes a storage system (16) having at least one storage device (18) for storing digitized information. A host bus (14) adapter provides a link between the storage system and a host system (12) that provides overall control of the media area network. Within the host bus adapter, a lower-level port driver (24) monitors communications between the storage system and the host bus adapter. In the event of a communications failure, the lower-level port driver initiates switching from a failed port to an alternative port, thereby achieving fail-over recovery. Allocating the responsibility for fail-over recovery to the lower-level port driver assures timely handling of port failures, thereby reducing potential latency delays.

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